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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Eckert et al. :
Application No. 10/706,391 : ON APPLICATION FOR
Filed: November 12, 2003 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Atty Docket No. 02307K-186431US :

This is in response to the REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT DETERMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.705(b) filed January 26, 2009. Applicants request that they be granted a minimum patent term adjustment of 412 days (not 0 days as indicated on the initial determination of patent term adjustment) with an additional term to be added if the patent issues after Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Relying on Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F. Supp. 2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008), applicants request this correction on the basis that the Office will take in excess of three years to issue this patent (and considering the filing of a Request for Continued Examination on February 22, 2008¹).

As the instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date, a decision is being held in abeyance until after the actual patent date. Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office

¹ Applicants request that the Office enter a period of adjustment of 467 days for the Office taking in excess of three years to issue the patent. Given the Office delay of 362 days and the applicant delay of record of 417 days at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, an increase of 467 days would net a revised patent term adjustment of 412 days.

failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.703(b). (This is true even in this instance where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed. The computer will not undertake the § 1.703(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Accordingly, it is still too soon to make a determination as to the correctness of any period of adjustment that will or will not be entered pursuant to § 1.703(b)).

Applicant is given TWO (2) MONTHS from the issue date of the patent to file a written request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. A copy of this decision should accompany the request. Applicant may seek such consideration without payment of an additional fee. However, as to all other bases for seeking reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent, all requirements of § 1.705(d) must be met. Requests for reconsideration on other bases must be timely filed and must include payment of the required fee.

Rather than file the request for reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicant is advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). The USPTO notes that it does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent and accordingly, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent.

It is acknowledged that any period of adjustment will be entered in light of 35 U.S.C. 154(B) GUARANTEE OF NO MORE THAN 3-YEAR APPLICATION PENDENCY, which provides that:

Subject to the limitations under paragraph (2), if the issue of an original patent is delayed due to the failure of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to issue a patent within 3 years after the actual filing date of the application in the United States, not including —

(i) any time consumed by continued examination of the application requested by the applicant under section 132(b);

It is noted that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was first filed in this application on February 22, 2008.

The determination of the patent term adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance remains zero (0) days.

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

Applicants are reminded that any delays by the Office pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(a)(4) (as well as, 1.702(b)) and any applicant delays under 37 CFR 1.704(c)(10) will be calculated at the time of the issuance of the patent and applicants will be notified of the revised patent term adjustment to be indicated on the patent in the Issue Notification letter that is mailed to applicants approximately three weeks prior to issuance.

The Office of Data Management has been advised of this decision. This matter is being referred to the Office of Data Management for issuance of the patent.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.



Nancy Johnson
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Office of Petitions